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IT MIGHT BE WORSE.

Dr. Russell gives expression to very pessimistic sentiments in regard to the territorial government. It would scarcely seem that his gloomy outlook was at all warranted, and certainly his remedy, a commission appointed by the president is impossible at least until Congress repeals the territorial act. Dr. Russell thinks the government is almost to the "demition bowwows," because he says the legislature and the executive are at outs and distrust each other. Then he gives as a reason why the legislature is at outs with and distrusts the executive, the refusal of the governor to extend the regular session or to call a special session except to consider appropriations. In addition he has as a special grievance against the executive the loan bill. While Dr. Russell is quite clear in his objection to a loan bill, he is not nearly so clear in the process or logic of the reasoning by which he seeks to shift the responsibility for the present situation on to the executive. If there is anything clear in the present situation, it is that the legislature and Dr. Russell's party is alone responsible for the inconveniences, embarrassments and damage to the interests and prosperity of the territory which may arise from or follow the present situation. Dr. Russell's party in the legislature failed to make or even to seriously consider either revenue or appropriations at the regular session, except the income tax act which was introduced from the other side of the political division. Neither Dr. Russell nor any one else can say with any regard for the fact that the Home Rulers were prevented from passing all the measures of this kind they might think necessary, either by the hostility of the executive or by the Republican minority in the legislature. Dr. Russell's party had it in its power to pass all the revenue acts it deemed necessary to present the need of a loan bill, if a loan bill is such a wicked thing as he seems to think it is. Clearly the legislature and not the executive is responsible for this situation.

It is true that it is within the realms of conjecture and possibility that if the legislature were called in special session again it might spend its time in useful legislation. But if evidence goes for anything it is not within the realms of probability. The presumption created by the legislature at its regular session that it would not do anything of the kind has been strengthened by its course during the special session. So that the executive has been fully justified after all, aside from the question of session.

But after all, aside from the question of where the responsibility lies, is there anything to justify such pessimism as Dr. Russell expresses? Hawaii is not the first place nor this the first time there has been a lack of harmony and unity in the different branches of government. This is not the first time a government having the responsibility of the public works of a whole community has faced an insufficient treasury. There have been dead-locks between the executive and legislative in many states and particularly in many cities before this, and many a city administration has had to carry on its work with a whole tax levy declared invalid by the courts and uncollectable.

So it is with Hawaii. Inconvenience will follow the incompetence of the legislature. Embarrassment will be a result. There will be loss to the community as a whole. There will be loss to individuals. But the territory will survive and will work out its own salvation, and the beauty of it will be that in the working out process, it will become clearer and clearer who is to blame for the situation, and the possibility and danger of a repetition of it will be lessened. The people will learn by experience and will take measures to prevent a repetition of this situation.

The trouble with Dr. Russell is that he is one of those reformers who believes chaos and annihilation must follow the failure to adopt his schemes of reform. The wonder is that since his schemes of reform have been thwarted by the men of his own party he should so illogically hold some one else responsible for the result. But this only shows how curiously the human mind works, and how a man may be a sincere reformer and an honest man and yet be illogical.

Perhaps after Dr. Russell's visit to Oahu with its waving cane fields and its cooling breezes, the good doctor will take a more hopeful view of the situation.

HAWAIIAN POLITICS.

The trend of deduction drawn on the mainland from the antics of the Home Rulers is pretty clearly shown in the following from the Review of Reviews.

The political friction in Hawaii to which we have previously called attention has not been diminishing. The refractory home-rule legislature ended the regular session and adjourned without doing any business and without even attempting to introduce appropriation bills. Its most notable action seems to have been the passing of a resolution to President McKinley asking him to remove Governor Dole.

Meanwhile the so-called Republican members of both houses signed a statement unanimously endorsing Governor Dole, whose high character, of course, is perfectly well known at Washington and throughout the United States. Governor Dole promptly called an extra session of the legislature, to assemble on May 8, for the exclusive consideration of appropriation bills. The spirit of the legislature was shown in its vote to give \$250,000 of public money to ex-Queen Liliuokalani. Governor Dole, of course, refused to approve this measure. Experience would indicate that the Hawaiian franchise was not sufficiently restricted to secure efficient territorial government.

It is all a matter of taste and preference. Some people went last night to hear President David Star Jordan; some went to see the Flying Jordans. Those who went to hear President Jordan were not disappointed.

Surgeon-General Wyman has decided that pulmonary tuberculosis is a contagious disease within the meaning of the act to exclude aliens suffering from contagious diseases. This is a decided step in advance in the scientific fight against the spread of tuberculosis.

At a recent London gathering, Coulson Kernahan, in the course of a lecture on "The Confessions of a Literary Adviser," related the following story about the opening lines of Keats' "Endymion," said to be among the most quoted passages in nineteenth-century poetry: "One gentleman wrote to a firm of publishers to say that he had made a deep study of Mrs. Brownings' poems and was going to give a lecture on the great woman poet, but he could not find the poem that had in it the line, 'A thing of beauty is a joy forever.' 'Every one who knows Mrs. Browning' he said, 'knows she wrote it, but they can not tell me where it is to be found.'"

J. Pierpont Morgan has a remarkable fancy for making interesting gifts and quite an unusual range of choice, from a Benjamin West painting to his latest present to Cooper Union three notable European collections of textile fabrics. These are the Bodia collection of Barcelona, the Rivas collection of Madrid and the Baron of Paris, and they include samples of fabric and design from the middle ages to this. The gift will make the Cooper Union's collection the richest in the country. It is not Mr. Morgan's first benefaction to this institution; some years ago he established a fund of \$10,000 to buy objects for the museum. The Cooper Union received \$40,000 in endowments, last year, and Abram S. Hewitt and Edward Cooper each gave over \$11,000 to the enlargement of the laboratories.

Lord Cadogan, lord lieutenant of Ireland, has added to our information concerning the depopulation of Ireland in a recent speech delivered after a tour of the southern counties. In Ireland there is no movement from the rural districts to the towns, and Irish cities almost alone of large centers of population in Europe show no gain in size. The lord lieutenant somewhat strangely speaks of a "congested" condition of population in certain agricultural quarters, and it is his hope to start a movement of the young men, hopelessly sitting about on the farms, to go to the cities and there engage in industry. The danger of such a movement, however, it that these young Irish would not stop in the Irish cities once they got started. They could do better in America, and all they need is an initial impulse to stir from the old sod.

The situation described in another column in connection with internal revenue taxes is one that is universal throughout the states. The misapprehension concerning it arises from the misleading misuse of the term license in connection with internal revenue taxes. These imposts are taxes not licenses, as the courts have time and again decided. They are no more licenses than a receipt for personal taxes under the old Hawaiian law was a license. In either case the penalty is for non-payment of taxes, not for doing something without a license. In some courts it has been held that in prosecutions under local laws for selling liquor without a license it is not permitted to introduce in evidence the fact that the defendant has paid the special internal revenue tax required of retail liquor dealers.

A map of the United States showing the owners of two-thirds of its railway mileage is given in The Common Carrier (April). This paper shows that owing to an understanding or agreement, verbal or written, generally the latter, half a dozen financial leaders control two-thirds of the railway mileage of the United States and thus maintain rates. The article, as abstracted in The Railway Digest, gives the names of seven or eight men who thus control 108,494 miles of road, and the table of roads, grouped as controlled, is given below. Says the latter paper:

"The writer further remarks that community of ownership will not mean low wages or high rates. Under private ownership men of ability will be well paid. It is the Government that pays modest salaries for responsibility. Railway owners believe with Andrew Carnegie, 'There is no price too dear to pay for perfection.'"

A summary of mileage by ownership is given as follows: Vanderbilt, 19,517; Harriman, 20,245; Morgan, 19,073; Pennsylvania, 18,220; Gould, 16,074; Hill, 10,373; Belmont, 4,430; Belmont-Morgan, 522. Total, 108,454. Independent systems, 37,977.

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